

APPENDIX A

(clean version of Claims 1, 8, 19 and 22 and new Claims 23-28)

1. (Amended) A pressing apparatus for producing from a paperboard blank a food service paperboard container having an overturned rim provided with folds, comprising:

a first die that includes a first base and a first platform movable with respect to the first base, said first base having a first curved forming surface for engaging an outer periphery of a paperboard blank as well as a first recess with a first recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposing the first curved forming surface of the first base;

a second die positioned in opposing relation to the first die and including a second base and a second platform movable with respect to the second base, said second die being movable with respect to the first die, said second base having a second curved forming surface for mating with the curved surface on the first die and engaging the outer periphery of the paperboard blank so that the outer periphery of the paperboard blank is pressed between the curved surface of the first base and the curved surface of the second base, the second die further defining a second recess with a second recessed mounting surface in proximity with and opposing the second curved forming surface of the second base;

a first cast-in heater mounted within the first recess in the first die, the first cast-in heater including a heating element embedded within a thermally conductive cast-in material; and

a second cast-in heater mounted within the second recess in the second die, the second cast-in heater including a heating element embedded within a thermally conductive cast-in material;

wherein at least one of the cast-in heaters has a surface configured for and in surface-to-surface contact with the recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposing the curved forming surface of the first or second die.

8. (Amended) A pressing apparatus for producing a food service paperboard container from a paperboard blank, wherein the paperboard container has an overturned rim provided with folds, comprising:

a first die having a curved pressing surface and a recess with a recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposed thereto;

a second die positioned in opposing relation to the first die and having a curved pressing surface and a recess with a recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposed thereto, at least one of said first and second dies being movable relative to the other of the first and second dies to cause an outer periphery of a paperboard blank to be pressed between the curved pressing surface of the first die and the curved pressing surface of the second die; and

a cast-in heater mounted in either the first die or the second die, the cast-in heater being configured and mounted such that a surface of the cast-in heater is in surface-to-surface contact with a recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposed to a curved forming surface of the apparatus.

19. (Amended) A pressing apparatus for producing from a paperboard blank a food service paperboard container having an overturned rim provided with folds, comprising:

a first die having a curved pressing surface and a recess with a recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposed thereto;

a second die positioned in opposing relation to the first die and having a curved pressing surface and a recess with a recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposed thereto, at least one of said first and second dies being movable relative to the other of the first and second dies to cause an outer periphery of a paperboard blank to be pressed between the curved pressing surface of the first die and the curved pressing surface of the second die; and

a heating element embedded within a thermally conductive cast-in material to form a cast-in heater, the cast-in heater being removably mounted on a recessed heater mounting surface of the recess of either the first die or the second die, the heater being configured such that a surface of the cast-in heater is in surface-to-surface contact with a recessed heater mounting surface in proximity with and opposed to a curved forming surface of the apparatus.

22. (Amended) A pressing apparatus for producing from a paperboard blank a food service paperboard container having an overturned rim provided with folds, comprising:

a first die having a curved pressing surface;

a second die positioned in opposing relation to the first die and having a curved pressing surface, at least one of said first and second dies being movable relative to the other of the first and second dies to cause an outer periphery of a paperboard blank to be pressed between the curved pressing surface of the first die and the curved pressing surface of the second die; and

a heating element embedded within a thermally conductive cast-in material to form a cast-in heater, the cast-in heater being removably positioned in the first die, and including at least one air tube extending through a hole in the cast-in heater and through a hole in the first die, the air tube communicating with the pressing surface of the first die.

23. (New) The pressing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the cast-in heaters has an annular shape.

24. (New) The pressing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the cast-in heater has an annular shape.

25. (New) The pressing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the cast-in heater has an annular shape.

26. (New) The pressing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the recesses of the dies has a peripheral wall extending away from the heater mounting surface of the recess and has a cast-in heater mounted in the recess in surface to surface contact with the peripheral wall of the recess.
27. (New) The pressing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein at least one of the recesses of the dies has a peripheral wall extending away from the heater mounting surface of the recess and has a cast-in heater mounted in the recess in surface to surface contact with the peripheral wall of the recess.
28. (New) The pressing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein at least one of the recesses of the dies has a peripheral wall extending away from the heater mounting surface of the recess and has a cast-in heater mounted in the recess in surface to surface contact with the peripheral wall of the recess.